

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 /073 W  
-----062507 110039Z /20

P R 102214Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9506  
INFO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA  
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE  
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR  
AMEMBASSY EGUCIGALPA  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, GT  
SUBJ: ELECTION SITREP #8 - PERALTA MENDEZ (DCG) CONCEDES TO  
PERALTA AZURDIA (MLN)

REF: GUATEMALA 1468

1. ON MARCH 9 GEN. RICARDO PERALTA MENDEZ, CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT (DCG) CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT, ANNOUNCED THAT IN ORDER TO AVOID THE POSSIBILITY OF BLOODSHED HE WAS ASKING THE GUATEMALAN PEOPLE TO ACCEPT COL. ENRIQUE PERALTA AZURDIA, MLN CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT, AS THE WINNER OF THE ELECTION. HE CALLED ON PERALTA AZURDIA TO LEAD A GOVERNMENT WHICH OBSERVES THE CONSTITUTION AND HUMAN RIGHTS, WHILE ELIMINATING PARAMILITARY GROUPS. IN RESPONDING, PID/PR CANDIDATE LUCAS NOTED THAT PERALTA MENDEZ, HIS ADVERSARY'S COUSIN, SPOKE ONLY FOR HIMSELF. WHILE CONDEMNING THE "GENERAL FRAUD," THE DCG HAS NOT ISSUED A PARALLEL STATEMENT.

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2. THE DISPUTED ELECTION TALLIES APPEAR TO BE MOVING TOWARD RESOLUTION BY THE CONGRESS, AS THE LAW REQUIRES. FIRST STEP IN THAT DIRECTION MAY OCCUR TODAY (MARCH 10) WHEN THE ELECTORAL COUNCIL DELIVERS ELECTION DOCUMENTS TO THE CONGRESS WHICH HAS BEEN RECONVENED EXPRESSLY TO RECEIVE THEM THIS AFTERNOON. THE ELECTORAL REGISTRY HAS YET TO

UPDATE ITS MOST RECENT TALLY (SITREP #5, GUATEMALA 1426) SHOWING LUCAS SLIGHTLY AHEAD. SIGNIFICANTLY, HOWEVER, EVEN THE PUBLIC MLN TALLY SHOWS PERALTA AZURDIA ONLY 2,000 VOTES AHEAD IN THEIR FINAL GUATEMALA CITY COMPUTATION.

3. MEANWHILE, ARTURO MALDONADO DE LA CERDA, ELECTORAL REGISTRAR AND HEAD OF THE ELECTORAL COUNCIL, ANNOUNCED THAT PRESIDENT LAUGERUD WOULD PROVIDE HIM COPIES OF THE TELEGRAMS HE HAD RECEIVED FROM THE VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS GIVING ELECTION RESULTS. MALDONADO INTENDS TO COMPARE THE PRESIDENT'S TELEGRAMS WITH THOSE THE COUNCIL RECEIVED IN ORDER TO VERIFY DATA. MALDONADO ALSO RESOLVED THE PROBLEM OF THE COUNCIL MEMBERS DENIED ACCESS BY SECURITY FORCES (REFTTEL). ORDERS GIVEN THE FORCES, THAT NO ONE ARMED BE ADMITTED, HAD NOT BEEN MEANT TO APPLY TO COUNCIL MEMBERS THEMSELVES. MALDONADO SAID THIS MISUNDERSTANDING HAD BEEN CLEARED UP.

4. HECTOR ARAGON QUINONEZ, MLN VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE, REACTING TO THE PERALTA MENDEZ ANNOUNCEMENT, INDICATED THAT HE WOULD BE BUSY CONSIDERING THE STRATEGY TO BE CARRIED OUT BY HIS PARTY IN THE CONGRESSIONAL SECOND ROUND. (WHEN NO CANDIDATE RECEIVES MORE THAN HALF THE TOTAL VOTES, CONGRESS CHOOSES THE PRESIDENT FROM THE TOP TWO CANDIDATES. THE TRADITION (THREE ELECTIONS) OF CHOOSING THE ONE WITH THE PLURALITY MAKES THE RANKING IMPORTANT. WHATEVER RESULTS ARE ANNOUNCED BY THE ELECTORAL REGISTRY WILL BE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRELIMINARY, IN THAT THEY ARE BASED ON TELEGRAPHIC MESSAGES FROM THE VARIOUS ELECTORAL BOARDS. THE BOARDS ARE REQUIRED TO PACK UP BALLOTS AND OTHER DOCUMENTS, SEAL THE BOXES AND FORWARD THEM VIA THE ELECTORAL COUNCIL (WHICH MAY NOT OPEN THEM) TO THE CONGRESS. NEITHER THE REGISTRY NOR THE COUNCIL, THEREFORE, IS ABLE TO VERIFY DEFINITELY THE TELEGRAPHIC DATA WHICH MAY HAVE BEEN GARBLED, ALTERED, ETC. CONSEQUENTLY, IN THEORY THE CONGRESS IS IN A BETTER POSITION TO DETERMINE THE REAL WINNER. THIS DOES NOT, HOWEVER, PRECLUDE AN ANGRY AND BITTER DEBATE BEFORE THE WINNER IS ANNOUNCED.)) ARAGON ADDED A FRESH ASSOCIATION TO MLN'S COMPENDIUM OF PRO-LUCAS CHICANERY, NAMELY THAT LUCAS' BROTHER, WHO COMMANDS THE POPTUN MILITARY GARRISON ON THE BELIZE BORDER, ENGAGED IN PRE-ELECTION INTIMIDATION TACTICS THROUGHOUT THE PETEN.

BOSTER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ELECTION RESULTS, PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 10 mar 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** ONLY  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
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**Subject:** ELECTION SITREP #8 - PERALTA MENDEZ (DCG) CONCEDES TO PERALTA AZURDIA (MLN)  
**TAGS:** PINT, GT, (PERALTA MENDEZ, RICARDO), (PERALTA AZURDIA, ENRIQUE)  
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